MONTEREY NEWS

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The Town

by Susan Gallant

Throughout the month of March, the Select Board (Wayne Burkhart, Scott Jenssen, Muriel Lazzarini), with the help and support of Finance Committee members Stan Ross and Dan Moriarty (before family obligations pulled him away), continued to wage a hard-fought battle of the budget, working to make it as lean and as painless as possible for the residents of Monterey. Even with an impending property-tax increase, Muriel Lazzarini reports that Monterey has the seventh-lowest property tax in the commonwealth.

Fire Fighting

On March 4, Shawn Tryon, Monterey's fire chief, met with the Select Board to review some of his department's budget requests for fiscal year 2014. In the past, Shawn explained in reference to the increase in departmental expenses, the highway department had been covering the costs

Glynis Marsh

Many people have been wondering about the large block of concrete in front of the Post Office. Well, so have we. The Monterey News *has learned exclusively on good authority that the block is the foundation stone of a pedestal that, when completed, will be 20 feet high and will occupy all the parking places between the Post Office and the General Store. Atop the pedestal will soar a 15-foot statue of beloved former Postmaster Walter Parks.*

of fueling the fire trucks. From now on, however, the fire department will assume that expense of approximately $2,000 a year. In addition, Shawn anticipates that the cost of Internet access will increase by no less than $50 a month and the cost of software licensing used for reporting to the state will rise about $1,000. Departmental expenses also include fees and dues for membership in the Western Massachusetts EMS Association and the Fire Chief's Association, as well as for maintenance and repair of the firehouse.

The town, in fact, does not own the firehouse but pays $5,000 a year to the Monterey Fire Company for its use by the fire department—an amount, Shawn pointed out, that is on the low end of the scale compared to rents paid by surrounding towns, whose rental costs range from $4,000 to $12,000 a year. And, unlike Monterey, these towns pay for utilities as well. In light of these figures, Shawn would like to increase the town's rent to $10,000, including utilities ($4,000 for rent, $6,000 for utilities).

Since Shawn brought up cost comparisons with surrounding towns, Scott Jenssen, Monterey's Select Board chair, pointed out that Monterey's fire department is the highest paid of any volunteer department in the area. Moreover, Scott said, he would be hard-pressed to justify the $15,000 increase in compensation Shawn has requested, seeing as other departments in neighboring towns offer the same service for far less reward. Muriel Lazzarini explained that the salaries paid to Monterey employees are on a par with those paid to employees in similar positions in other towns. Reconciling such a significant difference in the fire department's compensation compared to other towns is becoming increasingly difficult.

In response, Shawn referred to the election in which the town voted to pay its fire fighters who, Shawn said, are not volunteers but are on call. Shawn pointed out that a call can come at any time of the day or night, and responders may be forfeiting a paycheck if that call comes in the middle of a workday. Furthermore, Shawn said that his department is out the door within five minutes, a time that he believes is faster than the fire departments in other towns, though no formal survey has been taken.

At the Select Board's request, Shawn returned to the meeting the following week, March 11, to spell out his department's budget requests. The $8,000 increase in expenses includes $5,000 for rent; $1,400 for diesel fuel; $600 for Internet access, and $2,100 for replacing Engine 7's windows, which are cracked and fogging up. Shawn noted that he didn't include expenses for items such as foam, which costs about $2,000. After some scrutiny, the Select Board put the increase on next year's budget.

Shawn believes that decreasing compensation will dampen firefighters' enthusiasm, and even rumors of that possibility have affected morale. Shawn would like to see a $15,000 increase in compensation: $5,000 more for himself, which would raise his salary to $7,000 a year, and an additional $1,500 for the assistant chief, for a total of $2,700 a year, plus compensation for training and hourly pay for calls for all firefighters, the chief and assistant chief included. Shawn said that if the number of calls decreases and the extra money requested isn't spent, it goes back to free cash. The suggestion of increasing compensation by a lesser amount and transferring funds from reserve if additional money is needed was rejected, and the entire amount requested by the fire department will appear on the budget.

The Business of Policing

On March 11, Police Chief Gareth Backhaus came in to discuss his department's budget issues. Gareth admitted that in the past he's been overly conservative about

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his budgetary requests, but in looking over his upcoming financial needs he has realized that the money he's requested in the past won't be sufficient to cover expenses in the coming year. Increases in the cost of fuel, wages, and upkeep of equipment are all contributing factors, as is the cost of training, for which the state is no longer paying. In the coming year, a much-needed new cruiser equipped with new radar units will also be purchased to replace a vehicle and its very outdated equipment the department is currently using.

Gareth explained that Sergeant Mike Johnson's salary recommendation is based on his ability to train new recruits. Mike has even put together an extensive handbook detailing all the aspects of being a police officer in Monterey. He's also certified to be a field-training officer and attended the sergeant training program, which has given him more authority and knowledge to carry out his responsibilities. Muriel Lazzarini pointed out that Monterey is indebted to Gareth for many things, but what many don't know is that he does a lot of his own repairs and makes do with equipment that others would want to have replaced.

Scott Jenssen added that Mike makes a concerted effort to be an active member of the community, through his involvement with the council on aging, for example, and his demeanor with the citizenry and his relationship with Gareth are invaluable and not easily replaced. The Select Board wants to stress that the salary increases for Gareth and Mike were suggested after realizing that their salaries have been much lower than the salaries of their counterparts in surrounding towns. Scott also said that both Gareth and Mike are well deserving of the full amount of the proposed raises to their salaries, but with so many unavoidable increases to the upcoming budget, Gareth and Mike have agreed to having their salaries rise incrementally over a two-year period, rather than in one fell swoop.

Suzanne Sawyer

The Sawyer family with their snow person.

Police Report

At the March 18 meeting, Chief Backhaus reported the following activity:

- Medical alarm on Stevens Lake Rd.
- Loud music complaint on Cronk Rd.
- Disabled motor vehicle on Main Rd, assisted with a tire change.
- Assisted fire department on Woodland Dr. with a CO alarm.
- Assisted a resident on Gould Rd.
- False alarms on Mt Hunger Estates and Eaton Rd. and two on Main Rd.
- Two separate complaints of shots or fireworks heard in vicinity of Hupi Rd.
- Disabled motor vehicle, Fairview Rd.
- Medical call assist. Tyringham Rd.
- Loose dog complaint, Tyringham Rd.
- Complaint of electronic bullying on Main Rd.
- Motor vehicle lockout at Camp Half Moon.
- Suspicious person report in vicinity of Sylvan Rd.; no one found.

Cemetery Maintenance

For the past couple of years, the budget for cemetery maintenance and lawn care has remained steady at $24,350. As of March 11, $19,000 had yet to be spent. So the Select Board asked Linda Thorpe, cemetery commission chair, to join the March 18 meeting to discuss the costs related to maintaining the town's cemeteries. Linda explained that there had been some differences of opinion regarding what lawn care and tree work needed to be done. But these differences have been resolved, and in the spring the commission will use the $19,000 for pruning and caring for the healthy trees and the lawns and for removing old, dead trees that may be hazardous to cemetery visitors and passersby.

Based on the information Linda provided, the Select Board agreed to level fund the cemetery budget at $24,350.

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Sticker Shock

Maynard Forbes, director of operations for the public works department, dropped by the March 18 meeting to speak about transfer station operating costs, among other matters. According to Maynard, sticker fees were intended to cover at least 40% of the costs of running the transfer station. These days, however, sticker fees add up to about $30,000 a year, while the cost of operating the transfer station is somewhere around $100,000 yearly. Maynard also pointed out that Monterey has one of the lowest residential sticker fees in the area. New Marlborough and Sheffield, for example, charge $100 and $200 a year, respectively. What's more, Monterey does not levy additional fees for dumping large, bulky waste items, as do other towns.

To offset the rising cost of operations, Maynard suggested that raising the yearly fee to about $75, which comes to $6.25 a month per household, would bring in another $15,000. After some discussion, the Select Board and Maynard agreed on increasing sticker fees to $60 for the upcoming year, an increase of $10 from the previous year.

Steve Pullen's Words of Wisdom

Outgoing town accountant Steve Pullen joined the March 18 Select Board meeting to answer questions about the reserve fund and the overlay surplus account. Steve explained that the reserve fund is essentially a contingency fund, whereas overlay surplus is an account required by the state to cover budget shortfalls resulting from uncollected taxes and reduced assessments and abatements. Steve pointed out that the overlay surplus account has nothing to do with the budget; however, the town needs the voters' permission to transfer funds from overlay surplus. He suggested that if the select board wants to transfer money from overlay surplus, it should include a simple authorization article on the town meeting warrant regarding the transfer of funds from overlay surplus.

Steve also mentioned that as of March 18 there was about $10,000 left in the snow-removal budget. Not bad for a winter that has seen its fair share of snow.

Budget Informational Meeting

On April 26 at 7 pm at the firehouse, the finance committee will hold an informational meeting to help explain the recently completed budget for the coming fiscal year and answer any questions about it. The annual town meeting warrant containing this budget has been posted on the Monterey website at www.montereyma.gov/Public_Documents/MontereyMA_Warrant/May42013ATM.pdf. All those registered to vote in Monterey should print out a copy to take a close look at what they will be voting on in the next election—and bring your questions and comments to the April 26 meeting.

Mystery School-Assessment Formula

The biggest wallop to the upcoming budget came from the regional school district, which increased its assessment to Monterey by 11.64%, the largest increase of all the towns the district serves. In comparison, Alford's assessment *decreased* by 19%, New Marlboro's increase was a mere .08%, Sheffield saw its assessment rise by only 2.49%, and Egremont by 4.16%, according to the March 21 issue of the *Berkshire Record*.

In that same issue of the *Record*, Bruce Turner, SBRSD business administrator, explained that the formula used to arrive at the various assessments for each town "is based on enrollment numbers, property values, and mean income." But as Muriel Lazzarini discovered, the exact set of equations used for determining how each town is assessed is hard to come by. Information such as this should be readily available, but it is not. In an effort to crack the code of this mystery formula and create greater transparency, Muriel has asked Intra-Departmental Secretary Melissa Noe to ask Bruce Turner for a copy of the statutory formula.

Clarification

In a previous issue of the *Monterey News*, Engine 1 of the Monterey Fire Department was referred to as a backup vehicle. Chief Tryon wants it known that Engine 1 goes out on every call and is not considered a backup truck. ॐ

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Online Building Permits Go Live

Seven towns, Becket, Dalton, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Sheffield, and Richmond, are implementing an online system for building permits. This system will allow homeowners and contractors to apply for, submit material, pay application fees, schedule appointments, and receive approvals online. For most permits, an applicant will be able to go through the entire process without having to go to a town hall.

To access the program applicants (homeowner/contractors) must register with the program. Registration takes less than five minutes. Once registered, applicants will be able to:

- Have some of the information autofill on the permit application.
- View the status of their permits.
- Edit the application before the permit is issued.
- Add attachments (plans, pictures, specs, etc.) to the application.
- Conduct an online chat with the inspectors.
- Pay for the permit.
- Print the permit as soon as it is issued.
- View the inspection results.

All parties involved will benefit as this system will dramatically reduce the time it takes for the permitting process. Homeowners and contractors won't have to worry about getting to town halls during allowable office hours. Municipal inspectors will be spending less time on permit administration and instead will concentrate on conducting actual inspections. Contractors can spend more time on the job and less time filing permits and tracking down inspectors. An added benefit for contractors is that they only need to register once and then they will be able to process applications in all seven participating towns.

The online program is called Permit Eyes and was developed by Full Circle Technologies, Inc. This program is being utilized in adjacent Franklin County as well.

This project was initially funded by a Community Innovation Challenge Grant through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Administration and Finance. The Community Innovation Challenge (CIC) Grant Program invests in and incentivizes innovation among local governments through regionalization and other reforms and efficiencies to maintain critical local services and stretch every taxpayer dollar as far as possible. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission served as the grant applicant and administrator.

ॐ

Brush Burning Ends April 30

Each year, the state allows some Massachusetts towns, including Monterey, to conduct open burning. It is important to remember that when burning, you are subject to certain requirements and responsibilities issued and enforced by the State Fire Marshals Office, DEP, and your local Fire Department. These guidelines include the following:

- Permits can be obtained from January 15 to April 30.
- You must obtain a permit for open burning from the Monterey Fire Department by calling **528-1734.**
- Residents must call on the day they will be burning; no permits are issued ahead of time. The permit is good for one day only.
- Burning hours start at 10 a.m. and all fires must be out by 4 p.m.
- Burning materials will be confined to brush only. **All other materials are prohibited.**
- Burning piles will be kept small and controllable
- No burning within 75 ft. of a building.
- Have a method of extinguishment and tools available.
- Permits are issued weather permitting. Burning is not allowed every day.
- Burning season will not be extended.

Make sure you call for a permit at 528-1734 and leave your name, the address of where you are burning, and a phone number.

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May 7th Town Election Slate

The year's election for town officers will be held on Tuesday, May 7, not on town meeting day. The new day was approved at the 2011 town meeting so that the election would not be disruptive to the meeting. Polls will be open from 12 noon until 7 pm at the Monterey Firehouse.

Below is the slate for the election. Only one position (highlighted in bold in list below) is being contested this year, the ZBA 5-year seat. As explained in the note following the list, two of the lines on the ballot will be blank though there are candidates for the positions; these positions will have to be filled by write-in.

Board of Appeals (5 years, 1 seat)
Fred Chapman or Rick Mielke
Board of Assessors (3 years)
Stanley Ross
Board of Health (3 years)
Robert Annelli
Cemetery Commission (3 years)
Mary Makuc
Cemetery Commission (1 year)
Donald Clawson
Constable (3 years)
Raymond Tryon
Finance Committee (3 years)
Stanley Ross
Library Trustee (3 years, 2 seats)
Carolee (Mickey) Jervas
*Lisa Smyle
Moderator (1 year)
Mark Makuc
Park Commission (3 years, 2 seats)
Angelica Collins
Julio Rodriguez
Planning Board (5 years, 1 seat)
*Alan Salamon
Select Board (3 years)
Scott Jenssen
Tax Collector (3 years)
Anne Marie Enoch
Town Clerk (2 years)
Emily Johnson
Treasurer (3 years)
Bethany Mielke
Tree Warden (1 year)
Winston Wilson

*__Important Note__: These candidates were endorsed by both parties, but because they were out of town and unable to sign the acceptance form in the time required by statute these lines will be blank on the ballot and will have to be filled by write-in.

Town Election Candidates' Letters

Each year the *News* asks candidates for contested town offices, first-time candidates for uncontested offices, and other candidates who want to do so to write letters about their candidacy. Below are the letters received, with the only contested position, the seat on the ZBA, listed first.

Zoning Board of Appeals (5 yrs)

Fred Chapman

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am running for a third 5-year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals. In Monterey the ZBA hears applications for special permits and variances for those proposed new construction or renovation projects which are not automatically allowed under our zoning.

In determining whether to grant or deny such applications one must follow and apply Monterey's Zoning Bylaws, as well as the relevant state statutes. A careful examination of all the circumstances which pertain to these applications must be made. Decisions which will be in harmony with the unique character and qualities of Monterey are sometimes difficult to make but are always important to the lives of all townspeople.

My current experience of ten years on the ZBA as well as seven prior years on the Planning Board, six years on the Select Board, and five years on the Board of Health provide me with a wealth of knowledge about the Town and its zoning. Furthermore, my education in law school, specializing in land use, as well as my time in architecture school gives me an excellent foundation for this position. I look forward to my continued presence on the ZBA in order to help keep Monterey as special as it is.

Thank you for your consideration.

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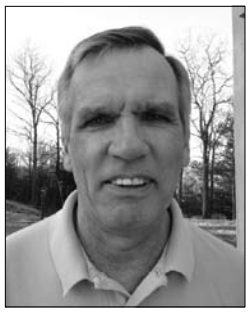

Rick Mielke

My name is Rick Mielke and I am running for the Board of Appeals.

I feel I can bring a hometown feeling to a board that sorely needs local participation. My family and I have been involved with the politics of the town since the 1950s. I am familiar with zoning and the Zoning Board of Appeals. I feel if a project warrants it, relief should be granted through the Board of Appeals.

For those who may not know me, I was raised in Monterey. I attended local schools and graduated from Westfield State College. I started my business in the 1970s. I have two daughters. My oldest is a Lieutenant in the United States Coast Guard, and my youngest is in her second year of law school. I have been married to Deborah Dinan for 37 years. I have been a Selectman and School Committee member. I have a building contractor's license and a Massachusetts real estate broker's license.

I believe I can bring a new experience to the Board of Appeals if given this opportunity. Please consider voting for me. A vote for me is a vote for change.

Thank you for your consideration.

Town Treasurer (3 years)

Bethany Mielke

Dear Monterey Voters,

I am thrilled to have this opportunity to submit a letter of interest for the Town Treasury position in Monterey. I feel that I have a great foundation for what this position would require. Since August of 2012, I have been working as an assistant to the treasurer, Pat Mielke. I have learned how to complete payroll, process vendor checks, make deposits, record treasury receipts, etc., using the municipal software. Currently, I do not hold a certification as a Massachusetts Municipal Treasurer, but I am eager to get the suggested training and obtain it as soon as possible. In addition, I have a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Massachusetts as well as a master's degree in Elementary Education from Westfield State University. I have been teaching 4th grade at Farmington River Elementary School in Otis for the past three years.

I would respectfully ask for the support of those who will be voting. Thank you very much for this opportunity. I look forward to serving the town of Monterey.

Town Clerk (3 years)

Emily Johnson

Today I am writing this letter to introduce myself and to express my intent to run for the position of Monterey Town Clerk. I have had many jobs that I feel would qualify me for this position. I was an instructional assistant to the 6th grade class, Computer Teacher and Technician, Fundraiser Coordinator for K through 6th grades, and front office support at the Colrain Central School for over ten years.

I launched and operated a sole proprietorship video rental store with an inventory of over thirty thousand DVDs. I was responsible for hiring, training, and supervising staff members. I also promoted products and services with multiple venders and established and improved client communications while maintaining ongoing relationships. I managed all phases of direct mail projects.

I have lived in Monterey for over two years with my husband, a member of the Monterey Police Department. I have been a member of the Parks Department for two years. I also volunteered with the Council on Aging Wii Bowling league. I am currently unemployed and have ample time to devote to this important position and live just up the road from the town hall so I will have full availability for citizens needs.

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Summer Events Planned at the Bidwell House Museum

All residents, friends, and visitors of Monterey are invited to enjoy the museum, its grounds and programs this year. The museum board and staff have worked through the winter to plan interesting and fun events celebrating local history—and they are now ready to invite you.

The museum will open for tours for the season on Memorial Day weekend, Saturday May 25, at 11 am. The opening celebration will take place on Sunday, May 26, from 3 to 5 pm. Acclaimed singer Diane Taraz is returning to the museum to perform her "Civil War Sampler," a program of American songs from the mid-1800s. There will be refreshments and a blessing of the homestead.

The museum's heirloom vegetable garden and perennial flower beds will be a stop on the Tyringham Garden Tour on Saturday, June 29. Come take a look at the freshly planted and tended museum gardens, and perhaps go on to visit all seven special places on the tour. "Walls, Water and Wonderful Gardens" is the theme. Tickets for the tour will be available in advance from the Hop Brook Community Club, 413-243-1717, which raises funds for scholarships and community projects.

On Saturday, July 6, the museum invites all residents of Monterey and Tyringham and their friends to Township No. 1 Day, the community open house celebration. Returning will be fun and exciting goings-on for all ages: music by Monterey and Tyringham musicians, a cake and pie-baking contest, historic craft demonstrations, history talks, games, popcorn, and more. Thanks to a grant from the Monterey Cultural Council, all residents are invited to Township No.1 Day free of charge. Save the date and invite friends for a fun holiday weekend event. Do you play music? Let us know if you'd like to perform that day. Please call us at 528-6888 or email bidwellhouse@gmail.com.

The festive Garden Party Gala, season highlight and most important fundraiser for the museum, will take place on Saturday, August 4. This year's party will celebrate "Music," at historic Fiddletop, the beautiful hilltop estate that was the former home of legendary conductor Eugene Ormandy and of the concert violinist Zino Francescatti.

Terrific speakers are visiting for the history talk series: Author Glendyne Werglund will present her book *Sisters in the Faith: Shaker Women and Equality of the Sexes*. John Demos, Samuel Knight Professor of History Emeritus, Yale University, will tell us about the English settlers' encounters with the native people, which involved trade, bloodshed, wars, and slavery. UMass Anthropology Professor Eric Johnson will talk about the people who lived in these Berkshire Hills four thousand years ago, and Allegra di Bonaventura, assistant dean at the Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences is returning to present *For Adam's Sake: A Family Saga in Colonial New England* about the lives of two clans entwined by slavery. On Saturday of Labor Day weekend, the Bidwell House is pleased to welcome Simon Winchester, author of the bestselling *Krakatoa* and *The Professor and the Madman*, for a special preview talk of his upcoming book *The Men Who United the States*.

The museum invites you to any and all of these events. Details will be in the *Monterey News* in upcoming months and always on the museum's website.

Please become a member! Your local history museum needs your support and would love to have you join the friends of the museum. Memberships are just $35 for an individual, $75 for a family. Members visit the museum for free, get discounts at events, and receive our informative newsletter and invitations to all parties. Most importantly, your membership helps keep the museum going strong. Please visit our website: www.bidwellhousemuseum.org. Thank you.

—Barbara Palmer, Executive Director

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Mark Makuc

Come try out the new beanbag chairs at the Monterey Library! (But the editor has first dibs on the red one.)

Monterey Library Notes

Comfortable! Cushy! Awesome! Soft! Great to sit and read in! Those are just some of what the kids who come to the Monterey Library are saying about the new beanbag chairs donated by the Friends of the Monterey Library. Beside the beanbag chairs, some other children's chairs, and a new bookshelf, the Friends also donated new tables for the computers. Every time you put some money into the Friends jar, buy a used book or work of art, or shop at the annual book sale you are helping support an organization that has made a huge difference in the Monterey Library experience! THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FRIENDS!

—Mark Makuc, Library Director

Friends of the Monterey Library News

Once a month a small but determined group meets at the library. No, it is not the trustees or the book group. It is likely that you, dear reader, might even be a part of our group thanks to a past contribution, or perhaps you bravely signed up for our email list . . . Yes, we are the Friends of the Monterey Library!

We are a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit group, and we raise funds through our annual book sale, the ongoing book sale in the Knox room, our annual appeal, and donations by artists each time one of their artworks displayed in the Knox Gallery is sold.

We have been busy behind the scenes, using your generous donations to fund many projects. Some of the things we have purchased or funded for the library this year include the ever-popular museum passes, the new-baby welcome packages, new audio books, the summer entertainment programs for families, the projector which allows movies to be shown, occasional lecture programs, year-round children's programs such as the book group and the writing group, intergenerational sewing classes, e-readers, the laptop computer, check-outable backpacks with fun kids activities, and the current renovations to the children's area, which will include bean-bag chairs and new shelving units.

The Knox Gallery shows would not be possible without the efforts of the Friends gallery committee! They work year round to make sure that the walls in the Knox room are not bare and that the well-attended openings are festive and organized.

As always, we welcome new members! You do not have to make a financial contribution to be a member, although we certainly appreciate all financial contributions! We have Friends who organize books; help with art shows; volunteer for the library programs; send out email updates; help plan, sort books, and assist at the yearly book sale; deliver food to the book sale; read to preschoolers; and attend meetings to plan for future projects.

We would love to talk with you if you have some time to donate and are willing to help us! The gallery committee is especially looking for a volunteer to help with publicity, so if you are interested in that job, or anything else, drop us an email at montereylibraryfriends@gmail.com, or call Franny 413-528-5414.

—Franny Huberman

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The Monterey Community Garden has open spaces for the 2013 gardening season, and we invite you to join! If you are interested in growing food and flowers (on your own generous 8-ft. x 16-ft. plot) and meeting other Monterey gardeners at the same time, please go to the website www.ccmonterey.org or call Ruth Green, Garden Coordinator, at 528-5908 for more information.

Registration for new gardeners will stay open until the end of May—we assign open plots on a first-come, first-served basis. So if you have a yen to garden with us, please download a registration form from the website and send it to the Monterey Community Garden, c/o Peter Heller, PO Box 748, Monterey, MA 01245, as soon as possible.

Happy gardening!

—Ruth Green

Monterey Community Center News

April will bring some great changes to the property on the corner of Main Road and New Marlborough Road.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we have been able to commit to the next phase of work on the renovation of the Wilson McLaughlin House. The crew that will remove all the lead-contaminated materials from the house is due to start work on April 8. As always, our Berkshire spring weather will have an effect on their progress, but they hope to be done by late April. Immediately following their work, a framing and sheathing crew will be getting to work to frame out the post-and-beam frame for a deeper insulation space and for the transformation of the east wall so that it is a copy of the colonial look of the west wall.

The Community Garden is preparing for its fourth summer of growing. See the article in the column to the left about available plots.

Keep your eye on the progress on the house, and find out about our Capital Campaign at our website: www.ccmonterey.org.

—Joe Baker

Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House

ॐ

Gould Farm Presentation at April 17 Community Potluck

At the March Potluck, we feasted on brook trout from the Berkshire Fish Hatchery and learned about the exciting work being done there. Thanks to George Emmons, who made the statistics and history fascinating and even funny!

This month, we will hear from Gould Farm, which is celebrating 100 years of healing in Monterey. Gould Farm is the nation's first therapeutic community and continues to be a pioneer of psychosocial treatment and recovery. People come from all over the world to experience the therapeutic model of meaningful work, expert clinical care, and a place of belonging. It is the people of Monterey, our friends and neighbors through the generations, who have supported, encouraged, and welcomed all of those who have called Gould Farm home. Speakers will include Donna Burkhart, Acting Executive Director; Bob Rausch, Forestry and Grounds Manager; Steve Snyder, Special Projects Manager; and Maria Rundle, Development Manager. And they are promising a dessert from the Harvest Barn!

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse at 6 pm on April 17. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil, and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

—Barbara Dahlman & Kyle Pierce

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From the Tax Collector

The fiscal year 2013 real estate and personal property bills for the fourth quarter have been mailed and are due May 1, 2013. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the tax collector's office (413-528-1443 x117).

Please direct all questions regarding assessments, abatement applications, and personal property taxes to the Board of Assessors, PO Box 488, Monterey, MA 01245, (413) 528-1443 x115.

To accommodate taxpayers who want the convenience of paying Monterey real estate and personal property taxes online, an online payment option is available. To pay your tax, you must have your current bill and checkbook/credit card in hand. Log on to www.montereyma.gov and click on Pay Real Estate Taxes Online. You will need to enter your current bill number and the current bill year (2013). Beginning on January 1, the bank will assess a minimal fee of $0.25 per transaction. MasterCard, Visa, and Discover credit cards will be accepted. Please note the credit card company will charge the taxpayer a fee for the service. This fee is not assessed by or paid to the Town of Monterey.

—Mari Enoch
Monterey Tax Collector

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Monterey Cultural Council News

This year your Monterey Cultural Council is using state funds and our Town of Monterey dollars to provide the town residents and other Berkshire communities with an especially rich array of activities in the sciences and humanities.

We will be supporting several activities as well as student internships at Bidwell House Museum.

We have funded for all kinds of music: Blanford Opera, Cantilena Chamber choir, jazz, folk music, the Berkshires Childrens Chorus, and New Marlborough's Music and More. Look for music by Barbara and Graham Dean, Don Mickelson, and Karl Finger.

For our Monterey and Berkshire children, we were able to support dance classes at Berkshire Pulse, Music in Common programs/concert at Mt Everett School, Barrington Stage's Kids Act, school trips to Plimoth, and programs at the Flying Cloud Institute.

We funded additional art experiences at Sculpture Now and IS 183, and another exhibit at the Knox Gallery in our library, theater in the Shakespeare and Company Fall Festival, writing with the Bard College Women Writers workshops, and even further progress on a new work about Berkshires' Ma Bett.

Our local history will be presented through talks on the history of crop circles (by John Root) and history through folk music (by Karl Finger).

In the recent past, we supported our extraordinary Montery Makers Tour last December, opening the studios of our prominent Monterey artists to the public in a day-long tour. We also provided small grants for poetry workshops, songwriting workshops, a mushroom walk and talk, and Township No. 1 Day at Bidwell House.

Soon to be scheduled are a nature walk with Bonner McAlister, a Multicultural Bridge event in our schools, a history talk about Brookmead Dairy, and an evening of jazz right here in town. Details for each event will be announced in your *Monterey News* and with our fliers around town. Don't miss out on these gems, right here at home and usually free to attend.

The Monterey Cultural Council welcomes you to its meetings each month. They are generally the third or fourth Thursday of the month and are always announced in advance in the Town of Monterey bulletin. The meetings are in the Knox Gallery of the library, at 4 pm. All of our meetings are public, and we especially look forward to new ideas, new participants to join our council, and to hearing more from our Monterey community about your interests and suggestions that will enliven culture here at home.

—Pat Salomon

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Knox Gallery Ann Getsinger Exhibit Opens Apr. 5

Ann Getsinger will present drawings and oil paintings at the Knox Gallery in the Monterey Library, in a *A Series of Series*, which opens on Friday, April 5, with a reception from 6–7:30 pm. Immediately preceding the reception, beginning at 5:30 pm, the artist will talk about her work, focusing on how exploring her vision through series differs from approaching works individually.

Ann's imagery hovers on the edge of reality by synthesizing a playful, intuitive approach, often exploring juxtapositions through time and place, interpreted through her lens as a traditionally trained realist. Works in the exhibition span her efforts from 1979 through the present. Two never-before-shown series feature the Maine shoreline—one of Ann's favorite venues.

While the word "series" might suggest limitations, Ann finds freedom in the format, "as if the series is a fixed doorway used to enter the cosmos of possibilities." She chooses to consider diverse facets of the series concept, much as the word "series" itself is simultaneously singular and plural. Sometimes she returns to similar subject matter in multiple pieces, but she may conjure a series more loosely to describe connections, as with works that could stand alone but benefit from placement in a specific arrangement.

In addition to working in her home and studio in New Marlborough, Ann works near Rockland, Maine, where her one-person show at Dowling Walsh Gallery will open in October 2013. Please visit www.anngetsinger.com or www.dowling-walsh.com for more information.

The exhibit will run from April 5 through May 5, and can be viewed during Library hours.

—MaryPaul Yates

Project Native 3rd Environmental Film Festival

Don't miss Project Native 3rd Environmental Film Festival scheduled for Sunday, April 7, at the Triplex Cinema in Great Barrington, MA. This free festival showcases documentary films that illuminate global issues and actions that affect our shared future. Films on a variety of topics, from 90-minute features to a series of short films for children, will inspire, enrage, and motivate audiences to engage.

The daylong festival will start with a collection of short films for children and families at 10:00 am.

The following award-winning documentary films were selected to highlight the problems facing our world and actions we can all take for positive change: *Bitter Seeds* (11:45 am), *The Carbon Rush* (6 pm), *YERT: Your Environmental Road Trip* (2 pm), *People of a Feather* (4:30 pm), and *Bidder 70* (8 pm).

All films are shown free to the public thanks to support from the Dr. Robert C. and Tina Sohn Foundation.

For more information about Project Native and film synopses please visit our website projectnative.org.

Project Native, a nonprofit horticultural farm and wildlife sanctuary growing native plants in South Berkshire County.

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From the Meetinghouse . . .

Even this year, with Passover and Easter already behind us, there's a sense of anticipation in the air. Winter weather's on the wane, and our town's lakes' ice is pulled back from the shorelines. A few weeks more, most of it will be gone.

But April was labeled "the cruelest month" at the start of T. S. Eliot's poem *The Waste Land*. Was he right? Or was his simply a postwar, post-influenza perspective, born of what surfaced during previous horror and its aftermath? The poem was published in 1922, so Eliot was working on it well before then.

His condemnation of April opens the piece, and not many lines later it becomes clear that the poem's first-section narrator is surveying a Germanic landscape that no longer bears any resemblance to the once-protected, and protecting, memories of childhood. Then there come references to the comforts of winter, when one may be safely swaddled. As the poem rolls further open, Eliot quotes the Buddha, St. Augustine, Herman Hesse, the Upanishads, Dante. He makes references to the Tarot, and to hallucinations that members of the Shackleton Arctic expedition recorded while their ship was locked in the ice: apparently at one time most, or all, of them shared a hallucination that one of the group was missing, but no one actually was, and all members survived.

And these are only a few iceberg tips available to Eliot's readers. On a mundane level, one might say the poem tracks and expands our responses to April in their fullest, from exhaustion—Do I have to put these muddy boots on *one more time*?—to ecstasy: *Birdsong, more, and more variety! Leaf tips! Crocuses! Blue sky, warm sunshine!*

Maybe Eliot's poem was his way of surviving the war and the 1919 flu epidemic. And every member of Shackleton's party survived the year on the ice. I can use those thoughts for navigating any "cruelest-month" moments I might come upon here in our beautiful corner of the world. I can use those thoughts to keep a sense of 'wasteland' in perspective. I can use those thoughts to more fully celebrate all that April may bring.

Including the return of the mythic Thunderbirds with the first real-spring rainstorm. They came in March last year. We're already ahead of the game.

—Mary Kate Jordan

Mary Kate Jordan

MontereyFest 2013 Planning Meeting Apr. 6

A meeting will be held on Saturday, April 6, from 9:30—11am, at the Monterey Library to begin planning for MontereyFest 2013, scheduled for Saturday, August 17. The meeting is open to all. Join in to share your ideas and/or volunteer for this fun-filled community event. Cochairs are Dorene Beller (dorenebeller@yahoo.com) and Mayra Rodriguez (rodriguez.mayra77@yahoo.com).

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Elizabeth Goodman

Who's Who in Monterey
Michael Johnson

It was St. Patrick's Day when Michael Johnson showed up at the church, the day we said we'd meet, though we hadn't settled upon a time. "Happy Irish Christmas," he said as he came through the side door, stepping into the sanctuary just where our piano sits open.

Midday on a Sunday as it was, I, like him, was "on duty." But I'd recently finished leading worship and so was upstairs in my office, hanging up my preaching robe; Michael, for his part, was still in uniform.

It's striking: a police uniform. Unmistakable, authoritative, it can be a tough thing to see past. But Michael himself is talkative and warm, quick to laugh and immediately engaging. I was sorry that I'd have to put off our conversation; I was expecting any moment the arrival of a couple whose wedding I'll officiate later next month. I leaned out the window by which my office overlooks the sanctuary below and explained, "I can't meet now. I'm expecting an appointment." I glanced at my watch. They were late; perhaps they'd forgotten. "Or, maybe I can." I said. "Let's try."

Michael climbed the creaking stairs and, once seated in my office, wasted no time before teasing me for having gone to Harvard. "It was the *Divinity School*," I said, laughing. "It's in Somerville!" I said, stressing its decidedly lesser-than address. But it made no difference. "Harvard is Harvard," he said, then correcting himself, "I mean, Hah-vahd."

One's thing's for sure, he's got the accent right—and he should. Like the divinity school, he's from not-quite-Cambridge, which is to say Somerville. This, of course, means he also knows something about St. Patrick's Day. In fact, he was looking forward to a full boiled dinner once he was off duty.

We were interrupted then; the couple had arrived. So we'd meet at his house, he and I; I'd come up the hill when I was finished here.

It was an hour hence that I went looking for him. But he wasn't home, was probably out on a call. I tracked him down at the fire station, and there we agreed to sit down together at the town hall.

Back down the hill now, finally we were settled.

It all played out not unlike Michael's life to this point.

His childhood in Somerville came to an end when he was nine years old and child services removed him from his home to put him in foster care. He'd been living with his mother and sister, poor but not miserable. Regardless, a neighbor, though unknown to him, had reported his situation to the state for intervention, and what was done was done. This is the only thing that had Michael quiet in our conversation.

Over the course of the next six years, until he was fourteen, he lived in thirty-six different foster homes. "I've seen everything," he said, "every religion, every economic class." He's slept in every sort of room, in every sort of house. But what he wanted most of all, it seems, was to be back home. He'd run away home to Somerville every chance he got. The state would come get him and then place him in a town farther out. It made running away home increasingly tough until, at last, he was placed in Charlemont—too far out, so there he stayed.

And soon there he'd want to stay. It was at the first dance of the new school year

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that Michael met Emily, who four years hence would become his wife, making this their twenty-fifth year of marriage. Now, it might be said, he didn't need to run away home because home had come to find him.

It might also be said that purpose came to find him. Early in high school, Michael became a Police cadet in the Law Enforcement Explorers, which gave form and fullness to his teenage life, and set him on the path of service that we today enjoy.

After high school, Michael enlisted in the Navy and served as a Mess Manager Specialist, which is to say a cook, on submarines—serving even in the Persian Gulf War. He and Emily, now married, were stationed in Groton, Connecticut. But he was seldom there for long: he was called for missions of 90, or even 120, days, and sometimes at a moment's notice. Literally.

As for life aboard a submarine, as with so much else, Michael has no complaint. The quarters were tight: no surprise there. The interpersonal dynamics were powerful: yup. The formality, the top-down chain of command, the task-orientation of it all: these were none a surprise and were all something Michael received as he would a gift. "You're so adaptable," I marveled. "You have to be," he said with uplift. "I'd *like* to be . . ." I said, not so confident that I could harness such a spirit.

For five years, he was enlisted—a period of time when he and Emily had their two sons, Benjamin, who is now twenty-four and an actor, and Aaron, twenty-three, whose love of basketball led him to become a staff member at the YMCA of Greenfield in charge of before- and after-school programs. Michael's pride and pleasure in these two is evident and catchy.

Following his time in the Navy, Michael was for three years the Vocational Integration Program Coordinator at Mohawk Trail High School in Buckland, which he says was his favorite job. As such, he was to find work settings for students with special needs, one of whom in particular he remembers with fondness. A girl with Down syndrome, she wanted more than anything to bag groceries at Stop & Shop, but she was convinced this would never be. With Michael on the case, though, she was hired, and her boss relied on Michael to help him provide her what she'd need to succeed. "She loves it," Michael said, smiling. Years later now, "She's still there!"

The path that led him to Monterey was meandering, but here he is, three years into a job whose application process he remembers as swift. "On Monday, I met with the Select Board. On Tuesday, I got the uniform. And on Wednesday, I moved to the area and started the job." Apparently, everyone could see easily that it'd be a great fit.

And so it has been, He loves it here. "You never know who anyone is," he explains. Those whom he's stopped in town, those whose police calls he's responded to: in this town you never know who anyone is. City folks, country folks, bigwigs, old-timers: he clearly enjoys and appreciates the variety, the surprise of it all.

Through the window now that looks out to the General Store, we watched as one driver backed blindly out, cutting off the car coming down Main Road, and then accelerated madly up the hill. Michael lowered his face into his hands, a mix of happiness and disbelief. "Job security?" I suggested; and I hope. Michael's great to have around. So, give him a wave next time you speed by. He may well stop you to say hello.

—Elizabeth Goodman

Wind Rustling

Wind rustling the trees above,
Clouds are gathering around,
Rain is beating down in groups,
And lightning surrounds the farm.
—Charlotte Micklewright

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Monterey Walks from Julius Miner's Recollections (1940)

Part 7: Townsend Road

Prepared by Barbara Swann for the Monterey Historical Society

Let us go east on the West Otis road and turn right onto the New Marlboro Road. The next road to the right is the Townsend [now Wellman] Road. Following this road, the first house on the left gives evidence of the appreciation by its owner of the town. Soon, look to your right to see, in the distance the village of Monterey and, still farther, on a clearing at the horizon, the Art School. Almost in front of you, in the distance, see a red building on a hillside. See the great forest surrounding it. This is part of the Massachusetts State Forest, in Monterey.

Look for a stone wall on your left. When the Town of Monterey was part of the Town of Tyringham, this wall was reckoned as on the boundary between [Tyringham and New Marlboro]. The house on the right was built by a family [the Jonathan Townsends] who put their trust in God. They would leave whatever work they were doing to attend the meetings of the Church. No matter how threatening the weather in haying time, they never did their haying on Sunday. God blessed them and today the surviving members of the family are holding responsible positions. The next owner wrote a book called *Early American Stencils on Walls and Furniture*. After writing the book she had some of her own walls stenciled with the old color and motif. This is the only house in town so decorated. Ask to see it and also the imitation tortoise-shell work done by her,

"Justa Mere Farm" (ca. 1910) was the summer home of Frances Gilman and Janet Waring. It is now the Thieriot house. This house was built in 1850 for Jonathan and Harriet Townsend. Jonathan died in 1892, Harriet in 1900. In style it is later than the Harmon/Tryon house or Brookmead. (Photo courtesy Monterey Historical Society)

The house on the left is still occupied by descendants of its builder [meaning Clarence Wellman, stepson of the builder, Reuben Fargo]. In the preceding generation, the owner was a highly respected selectman. To his door there came one cold winter, morning a neighbor who was wont to be shiftless. He asked for town aid because he was destitute, he said, and here was his son also destitute. The selectman referred them to a woodpile back of his house. He told them to work for an hour, sawing up this wood, and then come in for breakfast. They complied but never again asked him for aid.

There are many things of interest about the premises. Among them is the first Mowing Machine used in town. Ask to see it.

Walking on, look for wild roses on the bank on your right. Further along, see the "old swimming hole," a pool below the bridge. Continue and turn right [and right again] until you come to a bridge. Now look for eels. Some four pounders have been caught here. At the next corner we reach the Great Barrington Road. Turn right and note that you are one and a quarter miles from the village.

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Commentary on Julius Miner's Monterey Walks

by Barbara Swann

First, an apology, then a high-five. Last month, we relied on identification of an old house from information on the back of the photo. The person who identified that old photo is deceased. More attention to surroundings and less to the building itself might have prevented our lazy misidentification. The photo we identified as "Brookmead" is actually a photo of a now-destroyed house in the 200 block of Main Road. The house in the photo was once part of the Altaraz complex and was taken down in the 1970s. A difference in stonewalls should have caught our attention, despite the misidentification on the reverse of the photo. We do apologize.

This error does however substantiate Julius Miner's claim about one family in Tyringham and Monterey. He writes in last month's New Marlboro Road essay that the Dowd (sometimes spelled Doud) family built as many as thirty-two houses in the town. Indeed, the design of many of the Georgian Colonial houses in this town is similar enough to give major support to Julius's statement. Julius's father was born here in 1839 and died when Julius was a young man. His grandfather was born in Connecticut in 1801 and died here before Julius was born. And Julius's family as well as others certainly would have remarked commonalities in these gracious New England houses. High-five!

Nathaniel Bailey Dowd (born in 1748, married in 1769, died in 1821) and his sons were principal carpenters here in the early days. It would have been Nathaniel who built to the pattern often termed "Georgian Colonial" that characterizes many of the houses we think of when we think of Monterey: a chimney at either end of the house (where the chimney survives), five windows across the front on the second floor—two pairs of windows balanced by a single window right over a door with top panel or decoration over the door and/or side panels composed of panes of glass, carved wood, or simply half-pillars. The Harmon/Tryon house and Brookmead share that style, as do other houses here.

So Julius's comment about the Doud or Dowd family as principal carpenters, or at least carpenters who set the style for families of substance, is rather immediately answered by our confusion between Brookmead and the now-destroyed house on Main Road. Asher Benjamin's book on architectural styles for rural Americans was a guide for many New England houses, published in 1797, by the way. More on house styles at a later time.

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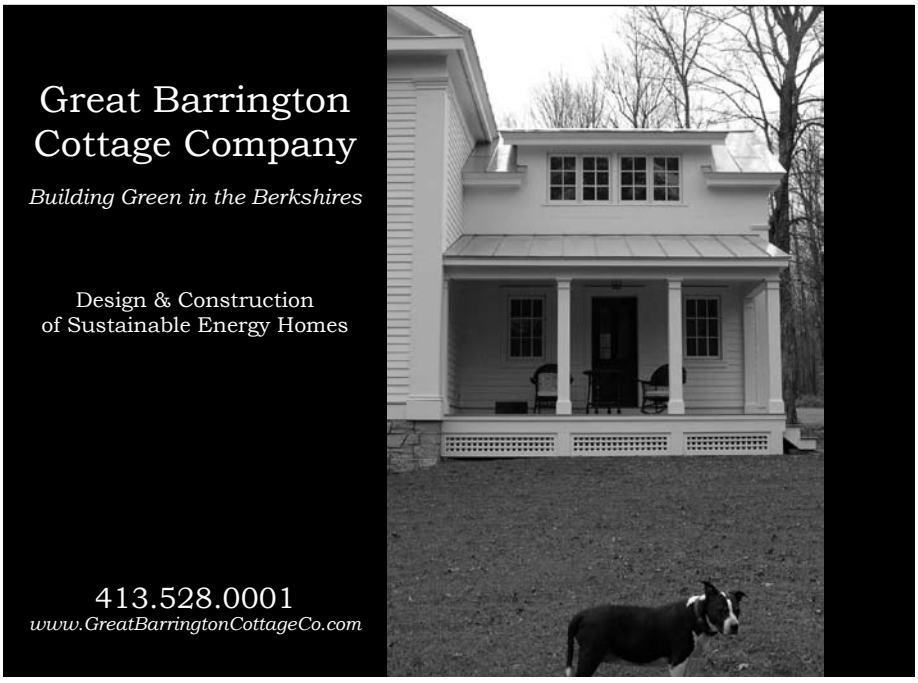

Personal Notes

Natasha Grotz has been notified by the Dean of Faculty at Dartmouth College that she has been selected to receive this year's Distinguished Lecturer Award. The competitive award is given annually to a distinguished lecturer or senior lecturer who has taught continuously at Dartmouth for at least five years.

A graduate of Mt. Everett, Natasha received her undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College in Biology and German in 1995. After working as a lab technician/researcher in the Biology Department for two years, she was encouraged by its faculty to pursue her PhD there. As a graduate student, she published articles in several scientific journals and was named a Croasdale Teaching Fellow. Natasha was also the recipient of the Amy Lutz Award and was recognized as the outstanding graduate student by the Association of Women in Science. Upon receiving her PhD in molecular and cellular biology from Dartmouth, she was invited to join the Department of Biological Sciences as a lecturer and has been a faculty member since 2004.

Natasha is the younger daughter of Stefan and Stephanie Grotz, of Main Road, Monterey.

Zachary Mielke, accompanied by his grandfather Mike Mielke, won second place in the Onota Fishing Club's Ice Fishing Derby Youth Division for his catch of a northern pike. Zachary won a trophy and fishing equipment.

Congratulations to **Justin Makuc** of Monterey and all the members of the Mt. Everett Robotics Team. Nicknamed the Higgs Bots, the high school team paired up with Pathfinder Vo-Tech of Palmer to win the 2012–2013 Massachusetts FTC state championship on March 16th. The Higgs Bots are the only team from Berkshire County to compete in high school robotics; they finished their season with a record of 26–6–1.

Readers are encouraged to send Monterey personal notes to the editor for inclusion in the Monterey News.

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Sugarhouse Ghosts

Down in the ditch we hit a layer of dark black earth, and, looking closer, I thought it might be fine charcoal. This was a foundation ditch, below frost, for the sugarhouse we were building thirty years ago. We were in it to our hips, with pick and shovel, Mom was up above with her camera, and we'd come to this dark, dark earth.

Maybe it was left from a forest fire, before our time. Maybe the Mahicans had used "biochar" that folks are promoting these days. There is Amazonian evidence of it being used as fertilizer by early folks, before anyone spoke of organic and sustainable.

Certainly this black earth once lived, as trees or some other vegetation. I've read that pre-Columbian people here set fires to improve the nut and berry crops. Maybe if you do this every third year a layer of char builds up, like that one we hit.

Every time we start boiling sap, late February or early March, I am visited. There is John Bernd, tall and strong. He came up from New York during his first city years as a dancer, wanting to get out in the woods for a break. We had cut oaks, beeches, and maples to clear the sugarhouse site. John stacked that heavy wood, the first fuel we burned in our new evaporator. After that we never burned hardwood for sugaring. Now it's all hemlock and pine, wood we wouldn't use for heating and cooking at home. We take the hardwood to the house, and everything else comes here for sugaring. Softwood still carries plenty of BTU's for making syrup.

John told us he had a strange illness and his T-cells were at low levels. He felt better just being outside, he said. Now he's been gone for years, but I feel him when I look out the window at the place where he stacked the long piles of beech. They are gone, too.

Mom and Dad would come over when they looked out from their place and saw the steam billowing. Dad liked the dark, sweet leavings in our cone filters and scraped it up with a spoon, like thick molasses, to take home and have on toast. Mom came at the end of the day with a bottle of sherry in a basket.

There were the babies, the wooden crib here in the corner, our first dog licking sugar where it dribbled sometimes onto the floor, under the spigot from the filter tank. We bottled directly out of that tall filter tank.

I like to see my Keyes ancestors, too. Here are their tapholes in ancient maples along the upper pasture. We know the feel of the bit in the tree. We see that welling of clear pretty sap in the hole and know that Dad Keyes saw it, felt it, feels it still. He heard it, the music of the first plink and plonk in buckets.

So we all string together, from the sun to the leaf, the tree to the sugarhouse, with our memories and our timeless dreams. I used to think, "One day I'll join them." Today I understand all us ghosts are here together in the melting snow, where water and sunshine make the miracle of our time on earth.

—Bonner J. McAllester

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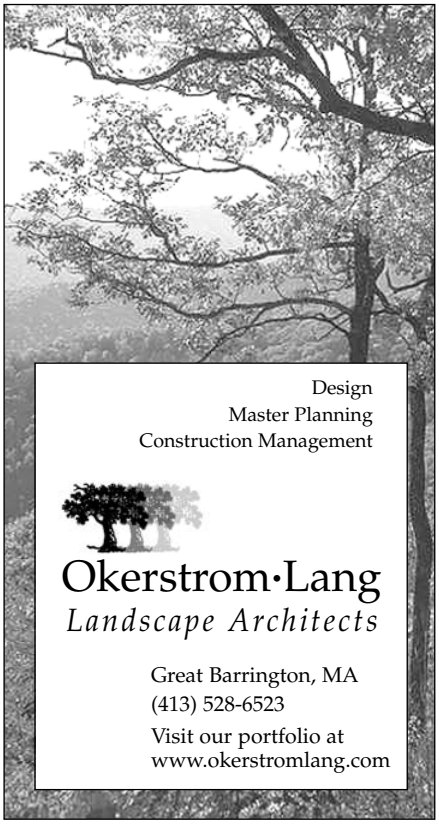

Garden Gustation
What's Cooking from Monterey Gardens & Farms

Gustation? The Encarta Dictionary states: "the action of tasting, or the sense or faculty of taste"

Pickaxe Parsnip Picking

Ok, I admit I'm getting a little impatient. Spring is officially here but it certainly hasn't felt like spring yet. About a year ago Barbara Tryon asked me if I grew parsnips; I hadn't. She shared a couple of hers with us, and I was sold. They were absolutely delicious. I still can't figure out why we don't see these beauties around our markets here more often, maybe I haven't been looking. One of their advantages is that they are best eaten after they have spent the winter in the ground. Storage doesn't get any easier than that! When the frost has gone, you can dig them up and enjoy their sweet tenderness.

Last spring I decided to try a short row for us. I ordered a variety called Andover from the Fedco seed company and planted the seed in the ground in an area where I could keep good track of it, and I waited. And I waited. And waited some more but just figured I was out of luck, no sprouting. Other plants in the bed were growing by leaps and bounds. Finally, I noticed some sprouts . . . in a line. Hey, there they were! At least three weeks had gone by. They were very slow growing once they came up too, but I was patient. As things go in the summer in the garden, other things grabbed my attention and I forgot about the parsnips for a while. When I returned to check on them one day . . . they had at least tripled in size. It was as if they finally got the picture! Although my germination was less than perfect, I had a number of beautiful parsnips. I left them in the ground and winter came.

Stephen Moore

Well, since I wanted to write about parsnips this month, I decided to go out and check on mine. I figured I could fork my way through what little frost there must still be and get at least one out of the ground to taste. It was spring, right? No matter how much I jumped on the garden fork, it went nowhere. I went to the shed and found the pickaxe. Now I maybe should have come to my senses right there but I didn't. I started chipping away at the frozen ground around a parsnip. I was having some success but it was awkward work, and I can't say as a pickaxe is an accurate tool for digging parsnips. I was eventually able to dig below the frost and there was the rest of the beauty. I was able to pull most of it out of the ground but a bit of it stayed down deep, I told myself I'd get that later. I gave up on digging any more for now and conceded to Mother Nature's icy grip on my parsnips. I guess I'll just have to be patient.

Simple Sautéed Parsnips

parsnips, cut into julienne pieces, can be peeled if very large
butter and/or olive oil for sautéing

Barbara told me that nothing fancy needed to be done to prepare the parsnips for eating. Cut them up and simply sauté them in a little butter until they are tender. Eat immediately, just delicious. I haven't tried it yet but I bet they would be just as wonderful roasted in the oven, maybe with some carrots, and potatoes, and garlic . . . yum.

Thanks Barbara!

—Wendy G. Jensen
wendygj@gmail.com

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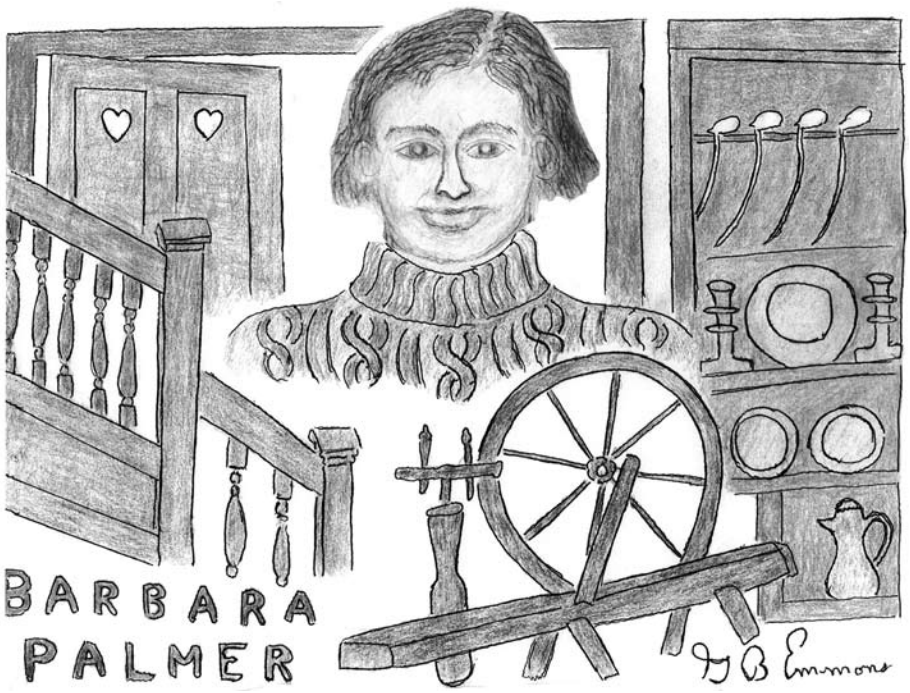
Barbara Palmer, Bidwell House Director



Barbara Palmer became Executive Director of the Bidwell House Museum in 2009. In just three years her achievements are substantial. In the criteria of her own words she is proudest of increased membership and a broader recognition of the museum. Barbara has a demeanor of looking everyone and everything right in the eye and so stands tall in stature as well as personal integrity. Her engaging charisma has a track record of winning friends and influential people.

Her community outreach brought about Township # 1 Day, taking Tyringham back into the fold. The theme was launched by Bidwell House Board President Rob Hoogs' concept of a John Winthrop sermon on the City On The Hill. Then John Demos, a board member and previous Knight Professor of History at Yale, began a colonial-life lecture series equal in historic interest to his best-selling books. The series will continue this year at the Union Church in Tyringham.

Barbara and her husband, Tonio, were also married there in 1988 and now live nearby on the Palmer family homestead called Hickory Farm. They have three children, Caroline, age 19, a biochemistry major at UMass Amherst, and two sons, William, age 16, and Henrik, age 15, both at school in Lenox. Barbara is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College. Using experience gained as an editor in New York and from a father who was a journalist, she regularly writes a great Bidwell newsletter.

Barbara and board of directors members Kathryn Roberts, Christine Goldfinger, and Charles Flint have worked as a team to make the Annual Summer Fundraising Galas grow, with record attendance at historic landmark residences such as the Deacon Hale House and Fiddletop. High standards of docent tours were inspired by board member Nancy Jones. New plateaus in educational school programs and intern scholarships have been developed with Delight Dodyk. The board has grown in numbers and today is truly blessed with a treasure of diversified talent.

Recently they consulted with Monterey fundraiser Marion Simon, who advised expanding the marketing image from just a museum to "a Historic Bidwell Homestead," a broader concept of a destination providing an enlightening experience for visitors of all ages. The new twist added to the mission and the task ahead is perhaps best symbolized by the spinning wheel in the keeping room. In my opinion Barbara will use her hands-on approach to meld the founding threads of Reverend Bidwell, Brush, Hargis, Jefferson, and Brockman together with future yarns of the board's vision. She can and will spin the yarns of the past, present, and future into an enduring mosaic.

—George B. Emmons

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March Wildlife Report: Bears and Woodcocks

With April comes real springtime obvious to all. In March, we have to look carefully to the wild sometimes to see what's changing. Our neighbor in Worthington, Ann McGinley, writes that she has seen woodcocks there for some weeks, even with deep snow on the ground. This put me on the lookout around here, and I saw my first one early on March 29, invisible on dry leaves until it flew.

The huge and busy flocks of redpolls have also flown, leaving very few still coming to the feeders around here, at least on East Hupi Rd.

Late in February, Shirley Olds wrote from Blue Hill Road to say there had been a Carolina wren at the feeder, puzzling her and Storrs until their visiting son Tom identified it for them. Tom Olds also watched a Cooper's hawk come close to the feeder, which resulted in all the other birds staying away.

Suzanne Sawyer sent in a snow-day photo of winter sculptures (photo on p. 3) and then news of two coyotes visiting the neighbors' yard on March 27, with much scratching of the ground and marking of territory, she thought.

Monterey turkey-vulture monitor Will Marsh reports their "official" return to River Road on March 26, though others had already seen the big birds soaring here and in nearby towns.

At the end of February, Lily Peters wrote to say there had been a "mink at the rink" by the firehouse. The creature wore a "beautiful black coat." Some would say this is clearly the only animal who should ever wear a mink coat. It crossed the road next to the skating rink.

Steve Moore writes of a northern shrike that took a junco and sat in the quince bush to work it over. The shrike flew off into the woods, carrying what was left of the junco. Wendy Jensen saw a red-breasted nuthatch at the feeder, right about the same time. Small birds, beware of the shrike.

We received a fine photo of a mourning dove at Michael and Maureen Banner's place (see p. 23).

All of us watchers are on the lookout for the real return of blue jays hereabouts. At our feeder, Bonner McAllester and Joe Baker's, there has not been a single one all winter, for the first time in nearly forty years.

On March 16, Bob Carlson was out early on his skis and saw the first bear tracks of the spring. He called up and we went out together to see if this bear might have just come up from a winter den. What we found was a one-night bed, constructed of dead wood and fresh hemlock branches on top of snow on a rock. These branch tips had been freshly bitten off and carefully placed by our bear. We each tried out the bed and found it to be soft and comfortable, though a little too small for us. We were Goldilocks on Mt. Hunger (photo above).

Thank you for your wild news!

—Bonner McAllester
528-9385, bmca@berkshire.net.

Bob Carlson

Bonner, aka Goldilocks, in the bear's bed.

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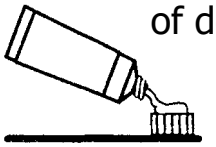

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Recent Acquisitions at Monterey Library

Below is a sample of recent new material in the Monterey Library. Come in and browse.

A list of new titles at the Monterey Library is now available online at the CWMARS site (http://www.cwmars.org/new_titles). Just click on Monterey Library (or any other library of interest) to see the recent arrivals.

DVD

Nova Doomsday Volcanoes (DOC)
Murdoch Mysteries Season 5 (TV)
Zero Dark Thirty (R)
Rust and Bone (FOR)
Falling Uphill (UNR)
The Man with the Iron Fists (R)
Five Broken Cameras (DOC)
Anna Karenina (R)
Bully (DOC)
Cirque Du Soleil (PG)
Cosmopolis (R)
Darwin's Secret Notebooks (DOC)
Hitchcock (PG-13)
Unforgivables (FOR)
Last Call at the Oasis (DOC)
Life of Pi (PG)
Playing for Keeps (PG-13)
Rise of the Guardians (PG)
Shakespeare High (DOC)
Stella Days (UNR)
The Polar Express (G)
The Seven Year Hitch (UNR)

Adult Fiction

Where Tigers are at Home, Jean-Marie Blas De Robles
Notorious Nineteen, Janet Evanovich
The End of the Point, Elizabeth Graver
The Unchangeable Spots of Leopards, Kristopher Jansma
Criminal Enterprise, Owen Laukkanen
Jacob's Folly, Rebecca Miller
A Grain of Truth, Zygmunt Miloszewski
The Accursed, Joyce Carol Oates
All for a Song, Allison Pittman
Mary Coin, Marisa Silver

Adult Nonfiction

Walking Home: A Poet's Journey, Simon Armitage
How to Love Wine, Eric Asimov
Backroad Bicycling in Western Massachusetts, Andi Marie Cantele
Barns of the Berkshires, Stephen G. Donaldson
Berkshire Fields Flower with History, Bernard A. Drew
Exploring the Appalachian Trail, David Emblidge
On the Map, Simon Garfield
The Ghost Runner: The Epic Journey of the Man They Couldn't Stop, Bill Jones
New England Waterfalls, Greg Parsons
Edith Wharton at Home, Richard Guy Wilson

Audio Books

Little Elvises, Timothy Hallinan
Two Rings, Millie Werber

Young Adult

Pulse, Patrick Carman
Spellcaster, Claudia Gray

Youth

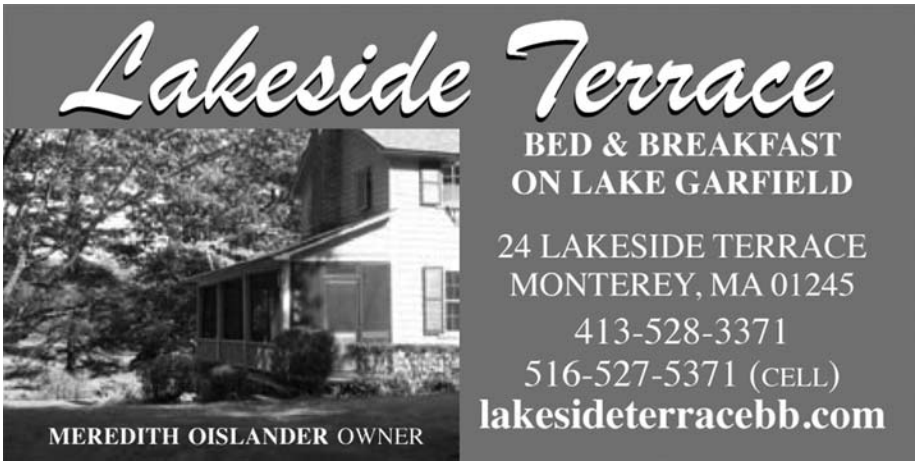
Mr. Big, Carol Dembicki (Graphic)
Hold Fast, Blue Balliett (Audio)

Volunteers Needed to Take Down Ice Rink

Hundreds of people enjoyed thousands of hours of exercise and recreation at the Monterey skating rink this season. Twice this winter the rink melted and was built back up by ice-making volunteers Mark Makuc, Tom Sawyer, Matt Berg, and Peter Poirier. Over ten adult weeknight pickup hockey games were played, and free youth hockey clinics by Coach Poirer were enjoyed on Saturday mornings. The rink also had its own Facebook page to keep the community informed about events and the ice status. The annual Community Skating Day was attended by over one hundred skaters and featured a fabulous DJ who kept the rink a rockin'.

Vounteers are needed to take down the rink on Saturday, April 13, from 9:30–11am. If you had some fun up there this winter, please plan to help out on April 13.

—Steve Graves



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Maureen Banner

The Banners' mourning dove.

Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, Town Hall, 9 am.

Wednesday April 3: Chair Yoga, taught by Connie Wilson, 9–10 am, Monterey Library. Free to Monterey residents. For information, call Connie 528-3798.

Friday, April 5: Opening reception for *A Series of Series*, drawings and oil paintings by Ann Getsinger, 6–7:30 pm. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library. Exhibit runs through May 4. See p. 12.

Saturday, April 6:

MontereyFest 2013 planning meeting, 9:30–11 am, Monterey Library. Open to everyone. See p. 13.

Dewey Hall Folk Music Series, singer-songwriter Thea Hopkins, 7:30 pm, Dewey Hall, Sheffield. Info www.DeweyHall.com.

Sunday, April 7: Project Native Environmental Film Festival, all day, Triplex Cinema, Great Barrington. See p. 12.

Thursday, April 11: Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Berkshire Visiting Nurse Assoc., Town Hall, 2–3 pm.

Saturday, April 13: Volunteers needed to help take down Monterey Ice Rink, 9:30–11 am, Firehouse Pavilion.

Wednesday, April 17: Community Potluck Dinner, 6 pm, Monterey Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Program by Gould Farm on their 100th anniversary. Everyone welcome. See p. 10.

Monday, April 22: Adult book group will discuss *A Place on Earth* by Wendell Berry, 7:30 pm, Monterey Library. Newcomers welcome.

Friday, April 26: Information meeting on warrant for annual town meeting, 7:00 pm, Monterey Firehouse.

Tuesday, April 30: Burn season ends.

Saturday, May 4: Annual town meeting, 9:30 am, Monterey Firehouse. Child care available.

Tuesday, May 7: Town election; polls open 12 noon–7 pm, Monterey Firehouse. See p. 6.

Monterey News

The Monterey News is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

The Observer
February 26 – March 25

High temp. (3/10)	53º
Low temp. (3/18)	7°
Avg. high temp.	35.9°
Avg. low temp.	20.2°
Avg. temp.	28.1°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	3.19 in.
Snowfall	23 in.

Precipitation occurred on 21days.
Winter snowfall of 87.4 in. to date.

Contributors

Thanks to the following folks for their recent contributions. Your support keeps your community paper going.

Mr. & Mrs. Philip Lombardo
James Volckhausen
Elizabeth Maschmeyer
Arthur Somers Family
Valerie & Andy Somers
Linda Hebert

Transfer Station Summer Hours

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Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
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Asst. Editor ..... Glynis Marsh
Reporter..... Susan Gallant
Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
Treasurer ..... Mari Enoch

Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, 10, 19, 22, 23; George Emmons, 20;
Ann Getsinger, 12; Bonner McAllester, 18.

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